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General and complete disarmament

# Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

## Report of the Secretary-General

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# I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 70/42, the General Assembly reaffirmed the ways and means regarding confidence- and security-building measures set out in the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1993 session, and called upon Member States to pursue those ways and means through sustained consultations and dialogue, while at the same time avoiding actions that may hinder or impair such a dialogue. Furthermore, the General Assembly urged States to comply strictly with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including arms control and disarmament agreements, to which they were party. The Assembly emphasized that the objective of confidence-building measures should be to help to strengthen international peace and security and to be consistent with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, and encouraged the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures, with the consent and participation of the parties concerned, to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its seventy-first session containing the views of Member States on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. A note verbale was sent on 9 February 2016 to all Member States requesting their views. To date, replies from the Governments of Albania, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and Ukraine have been received and are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies will be issued as addenda to the present report.

# II. Replies received from Member States

## Albania

[Original: English]
[11 June 2016]

The Republic of Albania is continuously working towards the effective implementation of all its international obligations, including the implementation of provisions contained in international treaties and conventions. The Albanian Armed Forces support the Albanian Government in international arms control negotiations, and implements international treaties and agreements that Albania is part of.

Concerning non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and disarmament, Albania has continued to align its positions with those of the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in international organizations dealing with these issues. Currently the Albanian authorities remain committed to the sustained implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

The Albanian State Export Control Authority has the responsibility for managing the international transfer control of dual use goods and military items. Albania does not produce, store or transport nuclear, biological, chemical weapons or similar devices.

As a part of agreements such as the Small Arms Light Weapons regional Implementation Plan, the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the OSCE documents on small arms and light weapons and ammunition stockpiles, Albania has made substantial commitments towards responsible international arms transfer control.

Albania regularly reports in conformity with its obligations as a State party to the United Nations conventions on disarmament issues and also in respect of its commitments regarding agreed confidence and security-building measures as a member of OSCE.

Albania reports on its military holdings and national procurement of the following categories on a yearly basis: small arms and light weapons, and on the import-export and quantity of small arms that have been identified as surplus, and/or seized and destroyed on its territory during the previous calendar year.

Treaties, agreements and documents on arms control, disarmament and confidence and security-building measures constitute an essential pillar of Europe's current security architecture. The faithful observation of the provisions contained therein and the implementation of existing commitments in the spirit of transparency and cooperation — as a tangible contribution to Europe's indivisible and cooperative security system is ensured in close cooperation by appropriate state structures, in particular by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence.

The Albanian arms control and disarmament policy is based on the principle of undiminished security at the lowest possible level of armament. The Republic of Albania is continuously working towards the effective implementation of all international obligations, including the implementation of international treaties and conventions.

The Republic of Albania fully complies with the commitments and the spirit of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. This unique document represents a landmark in security sector governance by obliging participating States to provide for democratic oversight of their armed, internal, paramilitary, intelligence and police forces. The code of conduct also includes key principles on relations between States obliged to ensure that their armed forces remain politically neutral and to guarantee that the human rights of security personnel are respected. In accordance with this document Albania reports back on national practices annually, helping to build confidence and Security in the OSCE region.

The 2011 Vienna Document enhances several confidence- and security-building measures through the annual exchange of military information which requires the exchange of detailed information on conventional armaments/ equipment and military personnel. In addition defence planning measures require members to improve transparency regarding the size, structure, training and equipment of their armed forces.

Furthermore, the Republic of Albania has already fulfilled all legal obligations stemming from the conventions on chemical weapons, cluster ammunitions and prohibition of anti-personnel mines. With respect to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, Albania has fulfilled all necessary obligations.

Albania exchanges all data concerning all arms control agreements with members of OSCE, including the provisions of chapter IX of the Vienna Document (compliance and verification) on inspections and evaluation visits, thereby demonstrating goodwill for cooperation, transparency and openness among countries in the region and subregional area.

## Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[25 April 2015]

Cuba supports the guidelines for confidence-building measures adopted by consensus in 1988 by the Disarmament Commission of the General Assembly. The guidelines state, among other things, that confidence-building is "a step-by-step process of taking all concrete and effective measures which express political commitments and are of military significance and which are designed to make progress in strengthening confidence and security to lessen tension and assist in arms limitation and disarmament".

Confidence-building measures must be designed to promote understanding, transparency and cooperation among States. If used appropriately, such measures could help to maintain international peace and security, and therefore need to be expanded and enhanced. Appropriate implementation of confidence-building measures can help to avoid armed conflict, prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities and contribute to regional stability.

Confidence-building must be undertaken in full compliance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the consent and participation of all the parties concerned. Observance of the norms and principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for the sovereignty of States and non-intervention in their internal affairs are all indispensable elements for effective confidence-building.

On the other hand, violation of international law, persistent threat or use of force as a coercive measure or as a way of resolving conflicts, and interference in the internal affairs of States are all actions which can undermine confidence and set a negative precedent for the implementation of confidence-building measures. The economic and military disparity between developed and developing countries can also diminish the confidence needed for the effectiveness of such measures.

Because they are voluntary in nature, confidence-building measures cannot be imposed. To be truly effective, such measures must take into account the specific circumstances of each country, region or subregion.

Latin America and the Caribbean have contributed to the establishment of a favourable climate for the development of confidence-building measures in the region, and along with extra-regional actors, to the declaration of the region as a peace zone, at the second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana, Cuba. That declaration translates the region's commitment to preventing war and to settling regional conflicts by peaceful means.

## Kazakhstan

[Original: English]
[31 May 2016]

Kazakhstan is fully committed to promote confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context.

Kazakhstan is committed to implementing Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and has hosted two training workshops. The first was in 2011 and the second in March 2014 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the resolution, on the theme "The contribution of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) to regional and global disarmament and non-proliferation".

Some 28 States from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America, as well as several international, regional and subregional organizations focused on preventing non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. Necessary legislation and effective measures for establishing control over related materials, as well as optimal outreach and cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, civil society and industry, were discussed.

The experience with resolution 1540 (2004) was used to similarly enforce other multilateral treaties to eliminate or prevent proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, as well as other treaties related to conventional weapons. Kazakhstan has also held platforms to encourage transparency, openness and mutual confidence among various actors.

Kazakhstan fully supports the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, as it constitutes an important step forward in promoting transparency in political-military matters, which in turn contributes greatly to confidence-building and security among States. By our example, we encourage others to provide data on their import and export of arms, their military holdings and procurement through national production and relevant policies.

In 1992, Kazakhstan established the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, which today is very active, comprising 26 States of the continent. The Conference has a catalogue of confidence-building measures to ensure lasting stability and mutual trust, such as information-sharing on components of armed forces; defence budgets; presence of foreign military contingents on territories of member States; notification of planned military activities, including exercises, inviting observers to military exercises; consultations on likely unexpected and hazardous military nature. There are also mutual visits by senior military authorities, mutual participation in national holidays, cultural and sports events. Conference members exchange information on the status of their accession to or ratification of multilateral instruments on arms control and disarmament, and conventions on outer space.

Thus Kazakhstan continues to contribute to subregional, regional and global security by taking measures to enhance confidence-building measures.

## Portugal

[Original: English]
[31 May 2016]

Portugal considers that confidence-building measures are a key element to the improvement and reinforcement of peace and security, a major input to regional stability, and an important way to prevent conflicts, at an international, regional and subregional level.

In this context, Portugal publishes an annual report on international trade and intermediation of defence products. Portugal also collects national data on export of conventional weapons, which it submits to the European Union for its annual report, and also reports to the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Wassenaar Arrangement. In 2014 Portugal was one of the first 50 countries to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty, and plays an active part on the promotion of its universalization. Portugal also reports on confidence-building measures within the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention process.

Furthermore, Portugal publishes annually its military budget, which is available to non-governmental organizations and think tanks, and fully cooperates with the requests that are presented in this context.

Finally, with respect to the export of weapons, Portugal implements a strict national legislation and fully complies with the European Union Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, which sets forth common rules to all member States. Those rules include the respect for international and regional embargoes, regional stability and especially human rights.

## Saudi Arabia

[Original: Arabic]
[14 June 2016]

Saudi Arabia supports United Nations confidence-building efforts at the regional and subregional levels, in order to establish peace and security in every region of the world. It has supported all General Assembly resolutions on establishing international peace and security, the peaceful resolution of conflicts and confidence-building measures at all levels. Saudi Arabia affirms its commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts, in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations.

Saudi Arabia complies with all Security Council resolutions, international law and international and bilateral instruments, whether in the context of international organizations or otherwise. In view of the foregoing, and owing to the threat posed by internationally prohibited weapons, Saudi Arabia was one of the first States to sign the first international disarmament instrument, namely, the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (17 June 1925), which is the basis for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. The country is a party to many international instruments and initiatives concerning conventional weapons, weapons

of mass destruction, non-proliferation and counter-terrorism, and participates in international efforts to prohibit the trade in small and light weapons, with a view to building confidence, promoting cooperation and establishing peace and security in the region and around the world. Following are some of those instruments:

(a) The Biological Weapons Convention

(b) The Chemical Weapons Convention

(c) The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

(d) The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

(e) The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

Saudi Arabia is a party to military agreements aimed at establishing security and peace in the region. It has concluded such agreements with many States in the region and beyond, including the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the United States of America, Great Britain and other friendly countries. The Saudi Arabian Government provides the armed forces with weapons and materiel of sufficient quality and quantity for the purpose of defending the country's territory, not for attacking other States. Saudi Arabia is one the largest contributors to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the mine-clearance programme.

Achieving the universality of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is of vital importance to confidence-building efforts. To that end, Israel should accede to the Treaty and subject all of its nuclear installations to international monitoring in accordance with the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency. In addition, regional nuclear-weapon-free zones must be created. Accordingly, a treaty must be concluded that would make the Middle East region a nuclear-weapon-free zone, just as is the case with other such zones around the world and similar treaties, such as the Treaty of Pelindaba of 1996 (Africa) and the Treaty of Bangkok (South-East Asia). It is imperative for multilateral international efforts to continue to focus on the perils of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We must rid the world of such lethal weapons by complying with the resolutions adopted and the international laws established by the competent bodies and organizations.

## Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2016]

The ultimate goal of a regime for arms control or of confidence- and security-building measures should be conflict prevention by reducing the danger of misperceptions or miscalculations with regard to the military activities of other States; by implementing measures to make covert military preparations more difficult; and by reducing the risk of surprise attacks or the accidental eruption of hostilities.

From that perspective, confidence- and security-building measures within a regional or subregional context are of great value as a form of prevention

specifically adapted to that context, given that they involve a smaller number of participants and can therefore be more stringent and thus more effective. All of the foregoing makes such measures easier to adopt and implement.

Within its own regional sphere, Spain has actively participated in all relevant initiatives; it is a party to the Treaty on Open Skies and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which include a set of legally binding measures and, as a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), it is politically bound through the measures contained in the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (which was updated in 2011 with the aim of improving and broadening its implementation), as well as by other OSCE documents. Moreover, Spain has contributed to the implementation of the regional stabilization agreements established by annex 1-B to the Dayton Agreement for the former Yugoslavia.

A fundamental and key element for the performance of verification activities in connection with disarmament and Spain's security- and confidence-building measures abroad is the Spanish Verification Unit, a defence agency established in 1991 and responsible for the detailed planning and performance of said activities.

## Ukraine

[Original: English]
[20 April 2016]

Ukraine's consistent commitment to strengthening confidence and derivative security for all, including through effective confidence-building measures, remains unchanged. Moreover, it has been reinforced by Russia's aggression. Based on this, Ukraine fully shares the vision and recognizes the importance of confidence-building measures laid down in General Assembly resolution 70/42 and its other resolutions on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context.

Ukraine continues to support all respective region-wide OSCE-wide, subregional and bilateral confidence-building measures, has been actively participating in the modernization of the OSCE Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, and advocates expanding the scope of their application. In addition, in the light of Russia's hybrid war against our country, Ukraine favours tightening the intrusiveness of these measures, including through lowering the thresholds for notification and observation of military exercises, which, as is known, are often used as means of intimidation and preparation for direct military aggression, especially against neighbouring States. Ukraine also favours an increase in the number of inspections and the composition of inspection teams, strengthening of risk-reduction mechanisms, including through the use of fact-finding missions, and constant assessment of the efficiency of instruments used for confidence-building measures, including from the perspective of their applicability, usefulness and viability during armed conflict, in order to preclude a repeat of Ukraine's tragic case anywhere else.

Ukraine attaches great importance to bilateral confidence-building measures with neighbouring countries in border areas. To date, Ukraine has entered into relevant bilateral agreements with the Republic of Poland, Hungary, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Belarus, and Romania. Conducting inspections on a parity basis pursuant to these agreements confirmed their practical usefulness for

maintaining and deepening of trust, friendly relations and military-political cooperation between involved countries in the interest of enhancing and complementing the European confidence- and security-building process. Starting in 2016, such inspections will begin with Romania as well.

Noteworthy features of these bilateral confidence-building measure regimes, which may be borrowed by others in the design or improvement of confidence-building measures are: the observation of military activities starting from the tactical level; prohibition of conducting military exercises on a battalion level and above at a distance of 10 to 20 kilometres from the border; application of confidence-building measures near the border not only to activities of armed forces, but also other power bodies; possibility of extending inspections for an additional period of time and their expansion to battalion-level units.

Regrettably, Ukraine's former numerous proposals to enter into a similar agreement with Russia were rejected by the Russian side. It is also regrettable that Russia has put into an ongoing state of impasse such subregional military cooperation and confidence-building arrangements of the littoral States of the Black Sea, such as the Black Sea Naval Cooperation Task Group and confidence and security-building measures in the naval field in the Black Sea.

Notwithstanding the deteriorated security situation in the OSCE area caused by the behaviour of the current Kremlin leadership, Ukraine believes that the experience gained in the OSCE area with the development of confidence-building measures deserves appropriate attention and, accordingly, that the Vienna Document that has generated a great deal of experience in the field of confidence-building can serve as a viable example for similar arrangements in other world regions.

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**General and complete disarmament**

# Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

## Report of the Secretary-General

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# I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/31 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-first session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 15 February 2016 a note verbale was sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

# II. Replies received from Governments

## Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[27 May 2016]

Argentina has traditionally advocated a comprehensive approach to actions and initiatives in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms regulation. These are areas where Argentina has been actively involved at the regional and global levels in defending the role of multilateralism in general, and of the United Nations in particular, in addressing the multifaceted challenges of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Argentina believes that the best way to promote multilateral disarmament and revitalize existing disarmament bodies while defending national interests is to embark upon substantive negotiations on the various issues on the agenda, within the framework of existing bodies, which are the best place to articulate national security stances. Argentina has, therefore, actively promoted confidence-building measures, especially in the area of conventional weapons. It is committed to contributing to international peace and security through transparent participation in the international community's collective efforts in the firm belief that greater openness and transparency regarding arms will build confidence, promote stability, help States to moderate their transfer policies, and strengthen peace.

That being so, Argentina has been actively involved in, inter alia, the negotiations over the Arms Trade Treaty, the establishment of the Register of Conventional Arms, and meetings on the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, considering that international stability cannot be based solely on national controls and that these instruments contribute to peace and security. The emphasis that Argentina has placed on strengthening these mechanisms is part of its broader commitment over recent decades to the development, implementation and strengthening of subregional, regional and global confidence-building measures.

Argentina is also irrevocably committed to non-proliferation and, to date, is the only Latin American country that is a party to the five export control regimes (Australia Group, Zangger Committee, Nuclear Suppliers Group, Wassenaar

Arrangement and Missile Technology Control Regime). Argentina has served two consecutive terms as Chair of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (2014-15 and 2015-16).

In 2016, Argentina has been taking part in the meetings of the open-ended working group established through General Assembly resolution 70/33 to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. Argentina voted in favour of the resolution, and its participation is guided by its interest in promoting and contributing positively to the advancement of multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

## Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2016]

Chile believes that the responsibility for maintaining international security lies with collective bodies rather than unilateral responses that could undermine the legal foundations of international coexistence. Accordingly, Chile considers it of the utmost importance to continue to move forward in arms regulation, non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament on the basis of universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent negotiations with the goal of achieving general and complete disarmament under strict international control.

Driven by its belief in broad, transparent and democratic multilateralism, Chile supported the establishment of the open-ended working group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, created pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/56.

Similarly, our country voted in favour of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/32, in which 26 September was declared the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Alongside various civil society actors, a number of activities were carried out to commemorate the day and to demonstrate the importance of the total elimination of such weapons and their impact on humanity. Furthermore, Chile will continue to promote the creation of new forums and processes for the discussion of threats to global stability. In that spirit, Chile supported the humanitarian approach to nuclear disarmament, an initiative which seeks to inculcate, in world opinion, not only a clear notion of the horrendous humanitarian consequences of using atomic weapons, but also the radical incompatibility between these weapons and the basic principles of international humanitarian law.

In addition to the above, and within the framework of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons), Chile supports the establishment of the open-ended group of governmental experts, who will prepare recommendations for regulating so-called lethal autonomous weapons systems which, owing to their lack of regulation, endanger important principles of international humanitarian law.

Finally, we will continue to support the work being carried out under the aegis of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

## Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2016]

The need to peacefully resolve existing international disputes underscores the importance of multilateralism in addressing potential threats in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The stalemate in the negotiations within the multilateral disarmament machinery, which has persisted for several years and which stems from the lack of political will on the part of certain countries, makes it all the more necessary to intensify multilateral efforts.

The multilateral efforts made by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries include, notably, the promotion of nuclear disarmament and the proposal, endorsed by the General Assembly, to start, as a matter of urgency, negotiations on the prompt conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear-weapons convention on the prohibition of the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

The goals of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation cannot be achieved through unilateral measures.

On the pretext of alleged threats to national security, some States promote and execute unilateral actions, some of which are related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. These unilateral measures pose a threat to international peace and security, undermine multilateralism and multilateral agreements, and erode confidence in the international system and in the very foundations of the United Nations.

In terms of scope and weight, unilateral measures and bilateral and regional agreements on disarmament and non-proliferation are no substitute for agreements reached through multilateral negotiations. Multilateralism must be the core principle of all negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

As a State Member of the United Nations and a State party to many treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation, Cuba reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism. The multilateral decision-making process conducted through the United Nations, in strict observance of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, is the only effective way of safeguarding international peace and security.

## Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[11 April 2016]

Lebanon supports the adoption of effective measures to counter the threat to international security and peace posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It supports disarmament and arms regulation agreements resulting from multilateral negotiations with the participation of a large number of countries, regardless of their size and power, with the goal of reaching complete disarmament under strict international control. It believes that the promotion of multilateralism is an essential means for advancing negotiations and establishing universal norms with

broader scope. It remains committed to multilateral cooperation because such cooperation is an important means of pursuing and achieving common objectives in relation to disarmament and non-proliferation. Meanwhile, Israel's maintenance of an enormous arsenal of weapons of mass destruction continues to pose a direct threat not only to Lebanon but to all States in the region, even endangering international peace and security.

## Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2016]

As noted in the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, nuclear disarmament concerns all States Members of the United Nations, and it has been the subject of multilateral discussions since the General Assembly adopted its first resolution.

Mexico is known for its tireless efforts and keen activism in pursuit of the prohibition and complete elimination of nuclear weapons, in accordance with its foreign policy principles and the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations. Thus, in 2015, in its belief that multilateralism is the best way to maintain international peace and security, Mexico continued to undertake multilateral activities at the national and international levels to promote disarmament and non-proliferation. Those activities included:

- Active participation in multilateral forums aimed at the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, with a view to maintaining and sustaining a world free of this scourge;
- Promotion of full compliance with and the universality and entry into force of international treaties on chemical, biological and nuclear disarmament, and participation in the meetings under each of those instruments;
- Voluntary submission of its reports pursuant to those instruments, and cooperation in various spheres with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Presentation to the First Committee at the seventieth session of the General Assembly of six draft resolutions aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular resolution 70/33 entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", which establishes an open-ended working group whose mandate is to substantively address new legal norms and measures on nuclear disarmament. Mexico has participated actively and proactively in the meetings of this group in 2016;
- Promotion since 2012 of the Humanitarian Initiative, which emerged as an alternative mechanism in response to the frustration of non-nuclear-States and civil society at the lack of progress towards nuclear disarmament;
- Participation in the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission, the open-ended working group to consider the objectives and agenda for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and the fourth Nuclear Security Summit, held in Washington, D.C. in 2016.

## Paraguay

[Original: Spanish]
[3 June 2015]

Paraguay is a party to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, adopted in November 1997. The Convention establishes the need for export, import and transit licences for firearms and for stronger controls at export points; promotes and encourages cooperation and the exchange of information and experience among States; and provides for a Consultative Committee to ensure its implementation, to promote the exchange of information, to encourage cooperation and to promote training.

Paraguay is a party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and a State member of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Treaty was the first legally binding instrument to prohibit the testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons, and their receipt, storage, installation, deployment and any form of possession.

Paraguay is also a party to the Arms Trade Treaty, adopted by Act No. 5398 of February 2015, whose instrument of ratification was deposited in April 2015. The First Conference of States Parties to the Treaty was held in Cancún, Mexico, in August 2015. The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) plans to develop the Arms Trade Treaty coordination and implementation mechanisms. At the Cancún Conference, Paraguay made a national statement in which it reaffirmed its wish to continue to support the Treaty and to comply with relevant domestic regulations, called for the progressive universalization of the Treaty, and advocated joint efforts.

Within MERCOSUR, the goal of the Working Group on Firearms and Ammunition is to prevent, combat and eliminate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in arms. In the Working Group, the States parties and associated States coordinate positions and policies and seek to harmonize their domestic legislation. In its capacity as President Pro Tempore of MERCOSUR, Paraguay hosted the twenty-seventh meeting of the Working Group and the eighth meeting of the technical subgroup in November 2014. In this connection, Paraguay is focusing on strengthening the control of transfers of arms; marking and tracing; and the regulation of brokering, especially across borders, and places great stock in the role of international cooperation and support for joint efforts and the establishment of a mechanism to build confidence among States and cooperating entities.

## Portugal

[Original: English]
[31 May 2016]

Portugal believes that multilateralism is the most efficient way to attain the objective of peace and security maintenance at an international level, through disarmament and non-proliferation. In this issue, Portugal is party to the most relevant treaties and other international and regional mechanisms regarding the prevention and elimination of threats represented by the proliferation of weapons of

mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Portugal also cooperates with international organizations that work in those areas.

Among the mechanisms mentioned above, we note the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BTWC); the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare; the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and its Protocols (including amendments) (CCW); the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC); the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM); the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Convention of Ottawa); the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; the Convention on Nuclear Safety; and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), and its Amendment. Portugal is party to all these instruments.

Portugal also participates in the following export control regimes: the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the Australia Group (AG), the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Zangger Committee and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

Portugal has participated in outreach activities which aim to promote the universalization of the main treaties and other legal instruments regarding disarmament and non-proliferation, especially with the Portuguese-Speaking Countries, through formal and informal contacts and initiatives such as seminars, workshops and meetings.

Following the efforts in the area of disarmament, at a multilateral level, Portugal was one of the first 50 States to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which is the first disarmament legal instrument adopted by the United Nations in the last decade.

In matters concerning nuclear disarmament, Portugal recognizes the risk represented by those countries that possess and seek to develop nuclear weapons, especially in regions that are politically and socially unstable, which represent a higher threatening potential.

Portugal aligns with the policies of its European partners, namely, supporting the dialogue between 5+5. In matters concerning nuclear disarmament, Portugal sustains the full implementation of the NPT, always considering the importance of the existence of confidence-building measures among nuclear and non-nuclear States.

Portugal also hopes that the Conference on Disarmament will adopt, as soon as possible, a programme of work supporting the negotiation of the fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT). To this end, Portugal highlights the importance of the implementation of the 2010 NPT action plan, in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and believes that the effective implementation of that action plan includes ending the stalemate of the Conference on Disarmament. Portugal also signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and has proceeded with outreach activities regarding its universalization.

## Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[8 July 2016]

Spain is committed to the multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament system; it has signed all the international agreements constituting the legal and normative framework of that system, and maintains an active, ambitious and consistent policy in support of its effectiveness and with the clear objective of achieving the universality of the major treaties in this area. Spain is also promoting the universality and full implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) through its chairmanship of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the biennium 2015-2016.

Furthermore, Spain is highly involved in the promotion of peace processes and in revitalizing and bringing innovation to the multilateral system with a view to transforming it into an instrument for peace, stability, advancement and progress. To that end, it will be necessary to:

- Seek comprehensive political solutions that prevent, deter or stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or conventional weapons.
- Integrate policy on non-proliferation and disarmament into general security policy.
- Consider the possibility of including "non-proliferation clauses" in bilateral and regional relations.
- Promote the universality, defence and strengthening of international treaties, conventions, agreements and regimes.
- Strengthen the role of the United Nations Security Council.
- Promote the national implementation of international obligations.
- Improve the effectiveness of verification mechanisms through political, economic and technical support.
- Strengthen import and export control systems relating to defence and dual-use materials.
- Strengthen control measures for intangible transfers of technology.
- Promote international information exchange.
- Strengthen technical assistance among States and cooperation for development.
- Promote legal and responsible trade in defence materials and dual-use technologies, and prevent illicit trafficking.
- Facilitate collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organizations and industries that share the same objective.

Only an effective multilateral system can successfully tackle the threat to international peace and security posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in combination with other phenomena such as international terrorism, transnational organized crime, failed States and regional conflicts.

The election of Spain as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, the principal organ of the Organization entrusted under the Charter of the United Nations with primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, reflects the international community's recognition of the important role Spain plays in the world and the country's commitment to multilateralism and to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

## Turkmenistan

[Original: Russian]
[23 June 2016]

Neutrality is the foundation of Turkmenistan's domestic and foreign policy, based on the close relationship between national interests, global security and shared progress. A key element for Turkmenistan, arising from its neutral status and international obligations, is the peace-loving nature of its foreign policy. Accordingly, all matters are addressed exclusively through political and diplomatic channels, primarily the United Nations and other international organizations. Turkmenistan fully supports international efforts to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related technologies, and it advocates disarmament as a prerequisite for global security. In its legislation, Turkmenistan proclaims its refusal to possess, manufacture, store or transport nuclear, chemical, bacteriological and other types of weapons of mass destruction, including new types of such weapons or technologies for their production.

Turkmenistan has acceded to a number of international disarmament instruments whose main purpose is to encourage States parties to maintain global peace, harmony and security.

Attaching particular importance to strengthening international peace and security, Turkmenistan calls for a reduction in the number of arms in the belief that the fewer weapons there are in the world, the steadier and calmer its development will be and the greater the trust and understanding among countries and peoples. Turkmenistan's foreign policy framework document for 2013 to 2017 emphasizes that Turkmenistan will continue to actively promote disarmament processes and the reduction of weapons arsenals, primarily weapons of mass destruction.

In his speech at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on 5 June 2015, the President of Turkmenistan drew special attention to our country's international obligations to the global community. He emphasized that neutrality means non-adherence to political, economic or military unions and blocs; having our own army with sufficient troop strength to protect the nation's peace and freedom; rejecting weapons of mass destruction and prohibiting such weapons from entering our national territory and air space; committing to universal human values and democratic principles, and safeguarding civic harmony and peace within the country; and conducting domestic and foreign policy in close cooperation with the United Nations and humanitarian international organizations.

At the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly on 3 June 2015, resolution 69/285 on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan was unanimously adopted by 193 States. This clearly illustrates the universal recognition of our country's effective policy to safeguard regional and international peace, security and sustainable development. The resolution underscores the important contribution of

permanent neutrality in Turkmenistan to the strengthening of peace and security in the region, and to the development of friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the countries of the world.

As the host country of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, Turkmenistan calls for that body to be more engaged in various aspects of regional issues with the support of States Members of the United Nations and other organizations (including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States).

An international forum on safeguarding peace, stability and security in the Central Asian region was successfully held in Ashgabat in 2015. As a party to international treaties, United Nations conventions and multilateral instruments in the field of disarmament, Turkmenistan intends to continue to do its utmost to facilitate these processes, first and foremost at the regional level, and aims for Turkmenistan to hold regular regional meetings on disarmament issues in Central Asia.